



Diocese of Missouri
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Making Disciples
Building Congregations
For the Life of the World*

**MEETING OF THE
Trustees of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri**

Meeting as

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Christ Church Cathedral:
St. Louis, MO:
February 17, 2018**

Members Present: Bob Taliaferro, Barbi Click, Rebecca Barger, Nancy Belcher, Tina Dillon, Janet Thompson, Al Ludwig, Todd McDowell, Margaret Rowe, Pat Glen, Barbara Kehl-Fairchild, William Cramer, Sondra Kekec

Staff: Desiree Viliocco, Joe Chambers

Ex-officio: Tom Hedrick, Treasurer

9:06 a.m. Call to Order & Opening Prayer – Bishop Smith

Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2017 meeting – Approved without objection

Financial Report – Tom Hedrick

-2017 receipts are in and up to date

-As of February 15, 2018, 6 parishes have not yet submitted a pledge for 2018

-At year-end we had a fourteen thousand dollar surplus

-The Diocese has almost twelve million dollars invested in the DIT. Our investment is divided 60% equities and 40% bonds. The blended approach yielded about a 14% return. Last fall the DIT board authorized a new investment in an international fund, which will likely provide better returns in the long-run. The Treasurer recommends that Council authorize 15% of COEDMO's investments in the DIT to be invested in this international index fund.

Al Ludwig moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri does hereby authorize and approve as a guideline that 15% of the Diocese's current investments in the Diocesan Investment Trust be invested in the international index fund.

Seconded, discussed, and passed without objection.

Treasurer's report continued:

- Other investments through SEI, performed above 15% last year
- Even though it is difficult to analyze mutual funds for social responsibility, to the best of our knowledge we are in compliance with the "do not invest" list
- For an increase in savings, we moved from a private foundation to a supporting organization a few years ago. We had been receiving a 5% distribution on the total return, but SEI restricted our distribution to 4%. Through a series of conversations and meetings, we settled on 4.5% of the 3-year average, which the Treasurer and Bishop believe is sufficient.

At the end of 2017 we received a \$117,000 capital gains distribution from the White Loan Fund account with SEI. Similar to last year, Council will need to decide how that money is spent.

Bishop's Appointment to Council

The Bishop has appointed the Rev. Melanie Slane and has asked for Council's approval. This appointment was approved without objection.

The Bishop has appointed Margaret Rowe to serve as Vice Chair. This appointment was approved without objection.

Bishop's Report

The Bishop gave an update on the formation of a South Indian Congregation that is starting up in West County by the Reverends Clive Sampson and Sujana Raj. There are some technical obstacles to this formation, however, the Bishop wants to support this both in mission and financially because they are on a good trajectory.

Of the \$117,000 year-end capital gains distribution from the White Loan Fund, the Bishop asks Council to approve \$20,000 to be given to this mission.

The Bishop moved the following resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri does hereby authorize and approve \$20,000 of the \$117,000 year-end White Loan Fund capital gains distribution to be used to support the startup of a South Indian Church in West-County St. Louis.

Seconded, discussed, and passed without objection.

The Bishop gave an update on the situation at St. Martin's, Ellisville, and the Title IV admonition of the Rev. Jon Hall, and the upcoming transition.

The Bishop requested Canon Chambers give an update on all clergy transitions in the diocese. The Canon reported that St. Paul's, Carondelet called the Rev. Rebecca Ragland to be their Rector. Emmanuel, Webster Groves, and Grace, Jefferson City were both interviewing rector candidates. The Church of St. Michael and St. George is still seeking a senior associate, and St. Martin's would be calling a Priest in Charge this spring.

The Bishop updated Council on the ordination of Richard Wiskus to the transitional diaconate. Kevin Selle was to be ordained with Richard, but he was diagnosed with a brain tumor, which has since been removed. His ordination is to be determined based on his health and ability.

The Bishop's January travels have included: Prov. V. Bishops in Chicago, which included conversations about the current challenges in clergy transition and the "Me Too" movement in the Church, a House of Bishop's Theology Committee in New York, to provide Theological and Scriptural support for the Beloved Community, and an ordination in Florida.

10:20 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Reconvene

Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund Resolutions

RESOLVED, that the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri does hereby confirm and approve the following corporate action of COEDMO: that a grant in the amount of \$16,000 be awarded from the Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund to assist a clergyperson with medical expenses not covered through an insurance plan.

RESOLVED, that the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri does hereby confirm and approve the following corporate action of COEDMO: that a grant in the

amount of \$7,722 be awarded from the Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund to assist a clergyperson with dental expenses not covered through an insurance plan.

Fund balance as of 01/31/2018: \$1,755,800

Established in 1870, and derived from offerings and gifts. This Fund is to be used for the relief of Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese disabled by age, disease, or otherwise, and of the surviving spouse and children of Clergy. Per Diocesan Canon, the Trustees of COEDMO shall receive, consider and grant or deny applications for relief.

New Ventures in Community Ministry Grant – (Subcommittee)

The Bishop asked for volunteers to serve on the New Ventures in Community Ministry Grant subcommittee. Al Ludwig agreed to continue and serve as convener. Rebecca Barger and Bob Taliaferro also agreed to serve.

Convocations Reports

Kemper- Have not met

Metro II

Metro III- Have not met

Metro IV- written report submitted

West- Meeting April 12

South- Have not met

Open Question/Comment Time

Todd McDowell-informed Council about a new indoor Labyrinth that was funded by the New Ventures in Community Ministry Grant.

Janet Thompson-updated Council about a project that is being funded by a grant from Council to create and provide a health and social services resource map for Boone County. The grant money is being used to pay a social work student to create new and accurate resource guides that are often out of date and inaccurate.

Janet also spoke about child mental health screenings in Boone County and their mental health coalition that spans all the school districts. She encouraged the Episcopal Church to support mental illness work and also work that encourages law enforcement to use de-escalation tactics, particularly in tense situations. She suggested that leaders in the church take Mental Health First Aid Training offered by the Department of Mental Health.

Barbi Click: Trinity Food Pantry has used Mental health Institute for training and awareness and there is hope that this training could be offered on a larger scale.

The Bishop passed out the following statement from the Rev. Marc Smith, the Bishop's Deputy on Gun Violence Prevention, and asked Council to approve the statement. It was approved without objection.

POSITION STATEMENT: SECURE GUN STORAGE

Position Statement

The Rev. Marc D. Smith, Ph.D., Bishop's Deputy for Gun Violence Prevention in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, respectfully requests that Diocesan Council adopt the following position statement regarding the safe and secure storage of guns.

"The Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri implores gun owners to lock and secure weapons against use by children or those suffering from agonizing despair."

Furthermore, Diocesan Council encourages all parishes in the diocese from time to time to include the following in service bulletins, web sites, and other communications.

"Please ensure that all guns in your home are locked and secured against use by children or those suffering agonizing despair."

Background and Rationale

In 2017, the Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in the Bowery, New York City, adopted this position on gun safety and placed an advertisement in The Episcopal New Yorker encouraging each parish to take similar action. Support for the safe storage of guns is broadly endorsed by the medical and public health communities as essential to eliminating accidental shootings of children and markedly reducing suicides without compromising rights guaranteed under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Recognizing the vulnerability of children and those suffering from depression or profound despair, the Diocese of Missouri entered into a partnership in 2016 with Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice for the purchase and distribution of gun locks through its "Lock It for Love" initiative. To date, almost 3,000 locks have been purchased and distributed free-of-charge throughout eastern Missouri. The current request of Diocesan Council is an extension of this ministry.

In addition to its work on "Lock It for Love," the Office of the Bishop, through the Deputy for Gun Violence Prevention, also is engaged with the newly organized regional Violence Prevention Commission, Washington University and various social service agencies and community organizations to support safe gun storage, as well as evaluate the effectiveness of

specific strategies.

The Bishop also pointed out gun legislation in the State of Missouri that would allow conceal and carry in a church without the clergy's permission and asked Council to consider standing up against it.

Adjournment and Blessing: 10:51 a.m.